

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Vaccines are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death; and,

*Whereas*, Vaccines not only help protect vaccinated individuals, but also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases; and,

*Whereas*, Because of the success of vaccines in preventing disease, parents are often unaware that their children are at risk for so many serious and life-threatening diseases; and,

*Whereas*, Immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious diseases; and,

*Whereas*, Immunizations are extremely safe and thoroughly tested before being approved for public use; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota children need a series of vaccinations, starting at birth, to be fully protected against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases, and particular attention must be paid to the importance of proper immunization for infants and toddlers age 2 and younger; and,

*Whereas*, Health care providers play a critical role in educating parents about the importance of immunization and making certain that infants are fully immunized; and,

*Whereas*, National Infant Immunization Week is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs in promoting healthy communities:


*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 19-26, 2008, as

## *INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK*


in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State